2.

Newes from Rome.

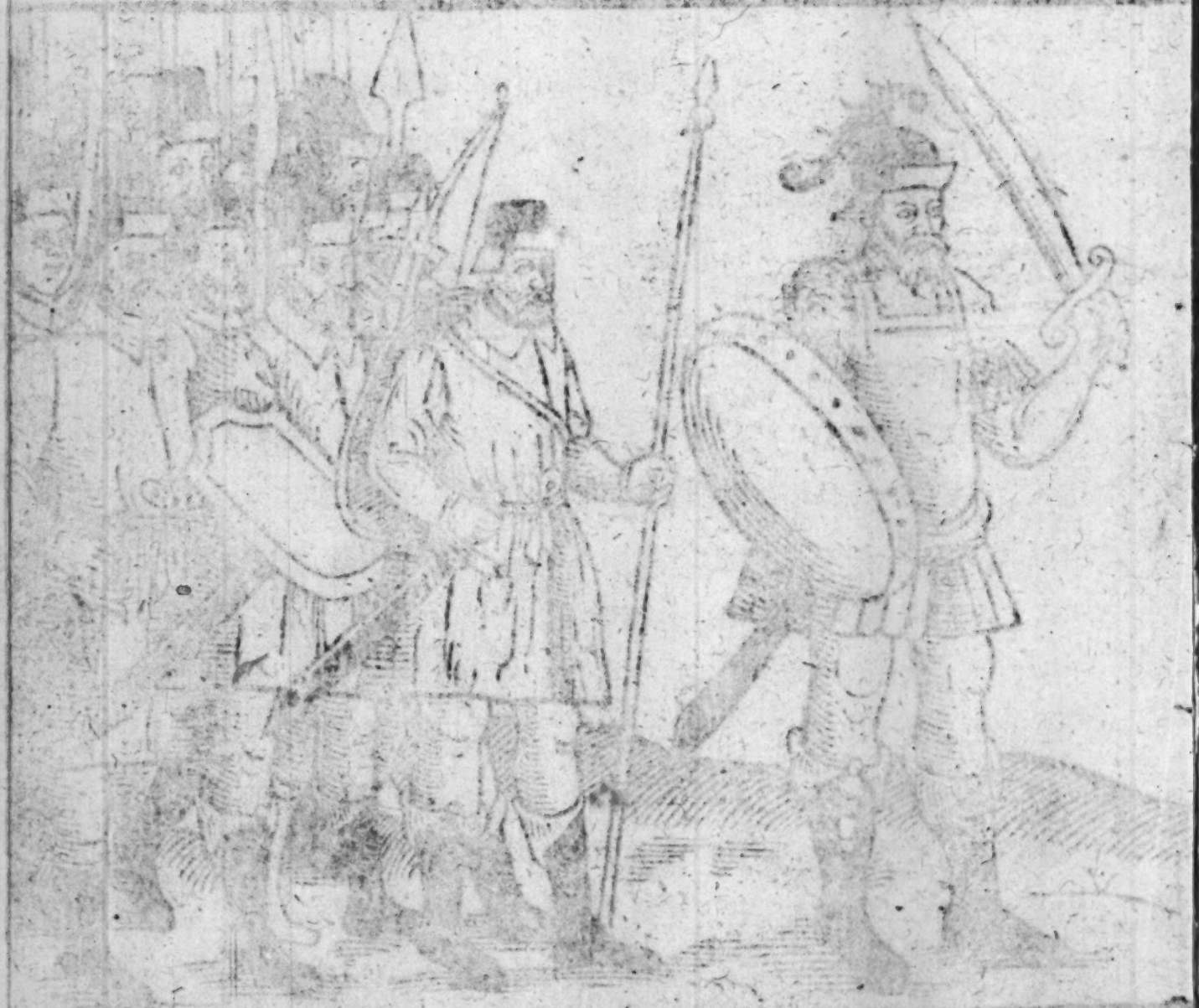
Of two mightie Armies, aſwell footemen as horſmen: The firſt of the great Sophy, the other of an Hebrew people, till this time not diſcouered, comming from the Mountaines of Caſpij, who pretend their warre is to recouer the Land of Promiſe, & expell the Turks out of Chriſtendome. With their multitude of Souldiers, & new invention of weapons.

Alſo certaine prophecies of a Iew ſeruing to that Armie, called *Caleb Shilocke*, prognoſticating many ſtrange accidents, which ſhall happen the following yeere, 1607.

Tranſlated out of Italian into Engliſh, by W. W.



Printed by I. R. for Henry Goſſon, and are to be ſold in Pater



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To the renovvned Lord, *Don Mathias de Renſie* of Venice.

AFter the particuler thinges alleaged in my former writings vnto your Lordſhippe, I thought it good and conuenient by this my Letter, to aduertiſe your Lordſhip, of certaine great, horrible, and fearefull things that hapned in this quarter.

Purpoſing to certifie your Lordſhip of the pompe and great triumph at the preſenting of the Captaines of the Sea, vnto the great Turke: the miſerie and vnhappines of the poore priſoners: the diſcorde & contention that came by the ſonne of the Vice Roy of Naples, being priſoner: the threatnings made to the Chriſtians: the receiuing of the Ambaſſadors of the Soffy: the pompes, tryumphes, and entertainments made vnto them, and yet diſſembled enough, with mocking one the other at their departing: the preſents giuen: the going of the great Turke a hunting,

and all other thinges written at large, as your Lordſhip ſhall vnderſtand.

But now your Lordſhip ſhall vnderſtand at thys time, the greateſt, the moſt wonderfull, and moſt ſtrange thing that euer was heard of. The which partly hath ſo troubled the great Turke, and all the reſt, that they haue left of all other affayres, to prouide for the perrill and danger that at this time hangeth ouer theyr heads.

Your Lordſhips to vſe,

Signior Valeſco.

Hilary Allom

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Newes from Rome.

(*,*)

The newes are come that the king of Hungarie maketh a great Aruy, which shall haue for his ayde the gallies of Buda, and of many other Princes of Christendome. And they say moreouer, that the king of Bohemia will helpe therein, and that the most part of Christian Princes will come and ayde him in this enterprise against the Turke, except the Signorie of Venice, which medleth nothing at all in it. These reporters of newes affirme, that there shal come aboue a hundred gallies, besides other Barks, ships, & Hulkes without number, which is occasion that they hasten the warre the more. Notwithstanding, men esteeme not so much hereof, as of the war that is made beyond the Mountaines, as you shall vnderstand not without wondering at it. The Tartars make friendes vpon the greater Sea, & haue made a league & friendship with the great Turke, requiring ayde, for they are molested with war by the great Emperour of Muscouia, & prince of Sagodie, of Pogore, of Smelengie, of Drossy, of Gazam, of Virgolosam, of Tartarie, of Cham, and of diuers other people and regions lying toward the South: they say that this Emperor or Duke hath two Armies, and is called Iohn Dwarillo, a young man, of the age of xxiiii. yeeres, noble and valiant, and a Christian, after the institution of the Greekes, and presumeth that by reason of his blood, the Empire of Constantinople doth belong to him. And these two Armies are about a two hundred thousand horse.

They were not wont in time past to be so strong, nor so feared of the Turks, for they had not the vse of artillarie in the warre: but nowe they haue meruailous great preparation in theyr warre. Hee hath in wages certaine Dutch Captaines, and about tenne thousand Maister gunners, and is meruailously well furnished with harquebushes and artillery, and because men vnderstand that hee hath so vanquisht the Tartarians, and brought thē to such a state, that they cannot much more resist hym, and that if the saide Muscouite should be maisters ouer the Tartars, they should consequently be Rulers of the great sea, & the way should bee open and easie for them to come, not onely to Constantinople, but also to driue the Turke out of Europe: and because that the saide great Turke is assured of this enterprise and commotion of the Greekes: he hath tōcluded and determined, to send to the said Tartars a good assistance of fifteene thousand fighting men, and also for this purpose, hee hath sent to the sea ten Gallies to passe them ouer.

Men make mention and doubt of Mondaccio which is a great Prince and Ruler, and able to make fourescore, or a hundred thousand horse: and yet men are vncertaine whose part he will take, because hee is tributarie vnto the great Turke.

There is newes also from Affrica, that the king of Bugien, the king Tramece, the king of Tunis, the children of Serif. The Lord of Mutocho, and of Gran, with the Arabians and other, haue taken in hand to driue and expulse the turke wholy out of Affrica, & to endomage hym as much as they may. Men know not yet in what place they will war, but we shall know it shortly. The newes also is, that the Soffie is in Campe with a great

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Armie, and hath the Medes to helpe him, which border vpon the Caspian sea, and of one side neighbour to the Hircans, called at this day Correxans and Zecarans, with whom he hath made a league and peace. There are on his side also the Ibeians and Albians, and also the people of Melibar, which harbor vpõ the Indians, and likewise with the king of Bosphorus, all beeing people meruailous swift and nimble. In this so mightie an host and armie, is also Bascet the sonne of the great Turke, by meanes whereof, all in those parts is in great trouble, as well as heere. It seemeth that the Ienissaries lying him the lot of Turkie, as Baduget, Zermonia, Alepo, and all the Regions lying neere to the Soffi is reuolted, all the which particularities shall be vnderstoode more at large.

This newes is great, & hath made the great turke to muse enough vpon it, but aboue all these meruelous and dreadfull newes which are hapned, there is yet chaunced another, which hath greatly feared & abashed all men, which although it seemeth to be incredible, yet vpon my credit it is most true, and that is, that a people heretofore vnknowne, mighty, swift, & meruelous nimble, hath taken weapon in hand, to the disaduantage and losse of the house of Ottoman. They say that Alexander the great did in time past driue beyond the mountaine Caspe nine tribes and a halfe of the Hebrewes which worshipped the Calfe & Serpent of gold, and draue them away, that neuer since there was no newes of them, neither knewe any man if they were in the worlde or not: because the Sea of sand, or the sandie sea, by a certaine inconuenience of sand Grauel or Beche, swelled & rose so high, that it vtterly tooke from them the way into this our Region. But now by

the meane of the newe Nauigation that ỳ Hollanders haue made, they are arriued in their country, and haue espied out all their dooings: and after ỳ the said Hollanders had instructed and taught them in the science and knowledge of artillery, and gun-pouder for Harquebushes & dags, wherevnto they are meruelous apt and ready, they are become in all thinges very perfit. After this they egged them forward to take weapon in hand, and passe the saide mountaine by Land. And because the sandy sea did hinder their passage, it appeareth ỳ some Duchman or Italian, which yet men knowe not, but notwithstanding some great Astrologian or Cosmographer taught them the way, making some hill plaine with fire, whereby they might easilie passe, which is a thing of great wonder.

These people haue two mighty great armies, and infinite store of victualls, by reason of the fruitfulnesse of theyr country, they are also well prouided of all maner of preparation for war, & cunning in the practise of theyr weapons. They say they will come & recouer the land of Promise, towards the which the first army is already very neere, to the great terror and dread of euery man which hath either seene or heard of them. The spyes which haue beene sent out by the great turke to discry them, doe affirme, that beside a hundred and two armies, there followe an infinite number of people, as well footmen as horsemen, and theyr first armie is already arriued vpon the limmits of Turkie, putting all to fire and sword. Theyr language is bastard Hebrew: & because men speake much of it heere, I will not forget to speake also something thereof woorthy to be noted, and well vnderstoode: The Heorewes of Constantinople say, that they haue certaine

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prophesies, among the which one maketh mention, that from the foure parts of the world, shall rise a people, and come into Gog and Magog, and then shall appeare (as they perswade themselues) their Messias in might and power, and then they shall haue dominion and rule in the world, whereof they secretly reioyce, & are wonderous glad. They say moreuer, that there is a prophecie grauen in a piller set at Podromo which saith thus: A mightie Prince shall rise, whose beginning shall be of small reputation, who by his Issue shal war of such force and strength (with the helpe of God) that he shall bring to nothing, the empire and rule of Ottoman, and shalbe the right possessour and inheritor of the Empire of Constantinople, & they beleeue all that it shall be this Emperor and duke of Muscouia, which is alreadie in great estimation among the Greeks.

The Turkes haue a prophecie, which they sing often, and weepe bitterlie the while, for it betokeneth and denounceth vnto them, their vtter ruine and destruction. And although it seeme strange, to say that the Turkes haue prophecies, it is no meruaile: for Balam was a false Prophet: the Sybilles also prophecied and were Pagans. For all these causes the great Turke hath forbidden wine, & will that all men goe fiue times in a day to the Moschea, and pray to GOD for their health and safetie. And so hee prepareth three great armies, one against the Muscouites, another against the Soffie, and the third for to goe against the Hebrewes of the Mountaines of Caspij. Within these fewe dayes you shall haue other newes, wherfore thus making an end, I commend me vnto your good Lordship: From Rome, the first day of June, 1606. Your faithfull and trustie seruant, Signior Valesco.

The description of the first Armie, conducted by Zoroam a Iew, Captaine generall of the Armies.

FIrst of all a Iew, of verie great stature, of a swarthie colour, more red then of the vvoll, with broad eyes, called Zoroam, is Captaine generall of all the Armies, hee leadeth vnder his Enseigne twelue thousand horse, and twenty thousand footmen. The horsemen are armed after a light sort, but very good Harnes, almost after our fashion: they carrie Launces of long Reedes, very hard and light, yet so sharpe pointed, that they passe thorowe a thing with incredible lightnesse: they carrie also shields or targets of bone, and in steede of swords, they vse certaine Courtilaxes.

They are apparelled with the colour of their Enseigne, and all clothed with like: the foote-men carrie Pikes of the same sort, with Helmet and Habergin: their Enseignes of blacke silke and blew, with a dog following a Hart, or Bucke, and a saying written in it, which is in our language this: Either quick or dead.

2. Of the Armie of Don Phares.

THere is one called Phares, which is an Earle, young and valiant, not regarding this present life: this man hath vnder his commaund fifteene hundred horsemen armed lightly, onely on the fore-part and head-peece: yet this Armour is so well tempered and wrought, that it keepeth out a Launce and Harquebush shot.

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This manner of arming themselues, is to the intent they may neuer turne their backe to runne awaie: they haue also fierce and light horses: there are eighteene thousand footemen, apparrelled with a kinde of sodden leather, made of the skinne of a certaine beast, so that no pike nor harquebush can pearse it. These men are beastlie people, & will neuer flie for any thing, they are very obedient and subiect vnto their Prince, and their ordinarie apparell is silke. The Ensigne that they beare, is a falcon pecking or billing with another bird, with a sentence that saith, Either thine or mine shall breake.

3 Of the Marquesse of Galair.

There is a Marquelle of Galair called Goes, this man leadeth fifteen hundred men of armes, which be all exceeding well armed & stout, strong, and robust men: their horses be morisskes, the greatest, the strongest, the fairest, and the best that bee in the world: there are also seuenteene thousand souldiers, very wel appointed with Launce and harquebush: their Ensigne or armes is a redde field, with a maid clothed in greene, holding a Lion in her hand, with these words, I hope to subdue a greater thing.

4 Of the Duke of Falach.

There is a Duke of Falach, called Oberth, who hath vnder his conduct xx. thousand footemen, armed with a certaine mettall like yron, but it is light and hard, they haue many good swords, launces, and other force, harquebushes, and wifflers: their Ensigne or armes, is a mermaid in a blacke field, and the deuise thus, My singing shall not cease vntill the end.

The description of the Armie conducted by Captaine Nauison.

THere is a captaine called Nauison, which hath vnder him xx. thousand men, appointed and armed with the skin of a serpent, most hard & stiffe, they haue Axes, pollaxes, pikes, harquebushes, and other kind of weapons: their Enligne or armes, is a white snaile in a blacke fielde, with a deuise about it, By little and little, men goe very farre.

Of the tribe of Simeon there is a Prince of Arsay, whose name is not yet knowne, but they say he is a deuill, great, grosse, & thicke beyond measure, with a flat nose, and both he and his men are of the stature of Giants: he leadeth with him xx. thousand footemen, almost all Alfiers, which are also so swift & nimble that that they will take horses running: they make a meruailous noise, such as no people vse: their Enligne is an Eute in a blacke field, and haue for their poly, Such is my gouernment.

6 Of the Duke of Barsalda.

THere is a duke of Barsalda, and he is the conducter of xiii. thousand footmen, which are all Harquebushers, & carry no fire matches, but strike it with a stone: they are apparrelled & armed with such a hard kind of leather, and so enchaunted, that no yron weapon in the world is able to perse it thorow. They bee also very swift and light: their Enligne or armes, is a dry tree in a blew field, and their deuise thus, I hope to spread, and be greene againe.

7 Of the Armie of the Duke Passil.

THere is a duke of Passil called Abia, he hath vnder his conduct a thousand footmen, very cruell, hauing all kind of weapons to push or pricke far off,

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and to strike nigh, but farre different from ours, they are very expert in artificiall fire, and make the greatest and most dreadfull thinges withall ỹ a man can imagin: they do it either by arte or enchauntment, so that it seemeth that it raigneth fire vpon their enemies, and yet notwithstanding hurteth not themselues at all, by reason they are apparelled with a certaine Serpents skin which preserueth them. Their Ensigne is a Cat holding a Rat in her paw in a blacke fielde, and they? posse thus, Euen so hapneth it to him that is not gouerned.

8 Of the Army conducted by the Earle of Albary.

THere is an Erle of Albary called Orut, which hath vnder his gouernaunce a thousand horse-men with Crosse-bowes, some of them weare certaine light armour of a kind of hard mettall, with Rapyers and daggers after they? manner, they fight alwayes running and their horses are so swift that it is wonderfull. This man also hath xx. thousand horses barbed with very fine leather. Some carry pikes & Partisans, & such like weapons. Their Ensigne or armes is a man in chaines, in a field parted halfe with greene and purple, and this deuise withall, My chaines shall bind another man.

9 Of the Marquesse of Vorio.

THere is a Marques of Vorio called Manasses, who hath vnder his conduct xvii. thousand footemen, armed with a very hard & strong leather, which men beleeue to be enchaunted, because that no weapon nor harquebush is able to perse it thorowe, yet it is as

light as Linnen cloth, and a thing very fayre to see to. These now haue all sorts of weapons that an Armie may haue: and they are deuided and set in a very faire, comely, and decent order: their Enlighe is an old man in a chariot, in a blacke field, saying thus, After a long iourney, I shall be happy.

Caleb Shilock his prophesie, for the yeere, 1607.

BE it knowne vnto all men, that in the yeere 1607. when as the Moone is in the watrie signe, the world is like to bee in great danger: for a learned Iew, named Caleb Shilock, doth write, that in the foresaid yeere, the Sun shall be couered with the Dragon in the morning, from fiue of the clocke vntill nine, and will appeare like fire: therefore it is not good that any man doe behold the same, for by beholding thereof he may lose his sight.

Secondly, there shall come in the same yeere a meruailous great flood of water, to the great terror and amasement of many people.

Thirdly, there shall arise a meruailous great wind, and for feare thereof many people shall be consumed, or distraughted of their wits.

Fourthlie the same yeere, about the month of May, will arise another wonderfull great flood, and so great as no man hath seene since Noyes flood, which will continue three daies and three nights, whereby many Citties and Townes which standeth vppon sandie ground will be in great danger.

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Fiftly, Infidels and Hereticks, through great feare and dread, will flie and gather together, and asmuch as in them lies, make war against Christian princes.

Sixtlie, in the same yeere after the great waters be past, about the end of the yeere will be very great and fearefull Sicknesses: so that many people are like to die by the infection of strange diseases.

Seauenthly, there will be throughout the World great trouble and contention about matters of Religion, and wonderfull strange newes vnto all people, as concerning the same.

Eightly, the Turke with his God Mahomet shall bee in danger to lose his Septer, through the great change and alteration in his Regiment, by reason of famine and warres, so that the most part of his people will rather seeke relieke from the Christian, then from him.

Ninthlie, there will also arise great Earth-quakes, whereby diuers goodly buildings & high houses, are like to be ouerthrowne and ruinated.

Lastlie, there will be great remouings of the earth in diuers places, so that for feare thereof, many people will be in a strange amazement and terror.

These punishments are prognosticated by this learned Iew, to fall vppon the whole world by reason of sinne, wherefore it behooueth all Christian to amend their euill liues, and to pray earnestly vnto GOD to with-hold these calamities from vs, and to conuart our harts wholy to him, whereby we may find fauour in our time of neede, through Iesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINIS.

SHYLOCK TRACT, 1607.—I have recently purchased a tract of considerable Shakespearean interest with the following title :—

"Newes from Rome. | Of two mightie Armies, aswell footemen as horsmen: The | first of the great Sophy, the other of an Hebrew people, till this time not disco- | uered, comming from the Mountaines of Caspij who pretend their warre is to | recouer the Land of Promise, & expell the Turks out of Christendome. With | their multitude of Souldiers, & new invention of weapons. | Also certaine prophecies of a Iew seruing to that Armie, called Caleb Shilocke, | prognosticating many strange accidents which will happen | the following yeere, 1607. | Translated out of Italian into English, by W. W. | Printed by I. P. for Henry Gosson, and are to be sold in Pater."

Unfortunately the rest of the imprint has been cut off.

It is dedicated "To the renowned Lord, Don Mathias de Rensie of Venice," and signed "Your Lordships to vse, Signior Valesco." In 4's, 8ll., black-letter, large woodcut on title-page representing Jews in military costume. Lowndes, p. 2749, notes: "Valesco, S. Jewes Prophecy, &c. Halliwell, May, 1856, imprint cut into, 10*l.* 5*s*: No other copy known."

In the introduction to 'The Merchant of Venice' (Halliwell's 'Shakespeare,' vol. v. p. 277, Lond., 1853) the following interesting account of it is given :—

"At the conclusion of a very rare tract entitled, 'A Jewes Prophesy, or Newes from Rome of two mightie Armies as well footemen as horsmen,' 1607, is a piece entitled 'Caleb Shilock his prophesie for the yeere 1607,' which commences as follows: 'Be it knowne unto all men, that in the YEARE, 1607, when as the moone is in the watrye signe, the world is like to bee in great danger; for a learned Jew, named Caleb Shilock, doth write that, in the foresaid yeere, the sun shall be covered with the dragon in the morning, from five of the clocke untill nine, and will appeare like fire; therefore it is not good that any man do behold the same, for, by beholding thereof, hee may lose his sight.'

Valesco

The late date of this pamphlet would render the allusion uninteresting, were there not evidence that it was a reprint of an older production, the year of the prophecy being altered to create an interest at the time of the republication. It is thus alluded to in a tract entitled, 'Miracle upon Miracle, or a true Relation of the great Floods which happened in Coventry, in Lymne, and other Places,' 4to, Lond. 1607: 'witnes the Jewes Prophesie, being an idle vaine pamphlet, as grosse and grosser then John of Calabria, *and was printed many years agoe*, and this last yeare onely renewed with the addition of 1607, yet amongst fooles, women and children, retayned for such an approved miracle that, as if the gift of prophesie were hereditary to the Jewes and their tribes, there are fewe things better beleeved, when as in truth there never was any such Jew, nor any such prophesie, but a meere invention.' The discovery of a copy of the original edition would decide the question whether Shakespeare could have borrowed the name of his character of the Jew from the tract, or whether the compiler of the latter was indebted for the appellation to the play. Dr. Farmer, who appears to have seen a copy of it, says it was entitled, 'Caleb Shillocke his Prophecie, or the Jewes Prediction,' and that it was printed without a date by one T. P., perhaps either Thomas Purfoot or Thomas Pavier, both of whom issued pamphlets of this description."

Halliwell's copy is now in the British Museum (Shilock c. 32 d. 26), the fore edge of which is badly cropped, "Shilocke" being cut down to "Shilo." This accounts for the final E of the name being omitted by Halliwell, Lowndes, and the British Museum Catalogue. As in mine, the imprint has also been cut off after PATER; but there is just visible the top edge of the next line, which I make out to be "roster rowe at the signe of the Sunne," but no indication of a date. There may have been one underneath this line in the centre, or as in the original issue printed without a date. Over half a century has elapsed since the Halliwell Sale, and other copies may have come to light. Should any reader know of one, I should be glad of the information